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REPORT OF NORTH CENTRAL STATES 4-H CLUB LEADERS
ON EXTENSION WORK WITH YOUNG MEN AND YOUNG WOMEN

U. S. Department of Agriculture

This heading is used
to describe the group
and to avoid naming
it.

As a general approach to this problem, it is assumed that each State will continue to develop its own program of extension work with young men and young women, giving consideration to the principles involved, the studies made, and the experiences accumulated to date.

The following tentative standards are suggested for this development:

"Natural grouping"
would refer to the
community in most
places, but to
district or county
in a few States.

1. That rural young men and young women be organized on a natural grouping basis, with emphasis placed upon the out-of-school group.

Program left elastic
and general to per-
mit diversity of pro-
cedure.

2. That in as far as possible, the program be planned for group action and community service with individual projects or enterprises as desired, using developmental methods rather than authoritative directions, in working out problems with the members to secure orientation in agriculture and home-making and to prepare for family and community responsibilities.

This would be club
department, in most
States, but may be
the supervisors of
agents in some States.

3. That unity of the program be maintained, by all extension workers assisting according to their respective responsibilities, but with State leadership placed with the division which has had the most experience in developing programs for youth.

Based upon the theory
that a community elevates
persons from function-
ing membership to
positions of leadership
as needed

It may be necessary in some States for additional funds to be provided to carry out this program.

In order to give vision, background, and leadership training, it is suggested that the work be started with a training school or rural institute, and at the close of the training period the young men and young women be encouraged to organize themselves on a natural grouping basis and to project their own plans into programs.

This report is made with the hope that experience will bring forth a plan. As Tallyrand once said: "There is somebody who is cleverer than anybody; and that is everybody."

(Signed) Josephine Arnquist Bakke
T. T. Martin

Committee

REPORT OF SOUTHERN 4-H CLUB LEADERS
ON THE OLDER BOYS AND GIRLS PROBLEM

The State club leaders of the southern region are of the opinion that the Agricultural Extension Service, cooperating with the United States Department of Agriculture, can best serve the rural youth in matters of improved farming and homemaking and other related matters of community and self-improvement through the already established 4-H club and, consequently, feel that no new organization for the older boys and girls should be formed.

This group feels that much can be done toward holding boys and girls in club work longer and serving them better while they are in by giving serious thought to the development of a program that will be of such nature, character, and magnitude as will appeal to the older group. This may mean the enlarging of projects or the addition of new projects to meet conditions and needs as they arise.

Besides improving the program to meet the needs and desires of the older group, we should recognize their leadership among the younger group and put that leadership to work on projects and activities needed by the younger group. Leadership thus recognized and used will have a helpful influence in holding the older group longer in club work.

In order, then, further to develop the usefulness of the 4-H club and consequently to help build or build a program in keeping with the needs, desires, and demands of both groups, we would like to recommend that serious consideration be given by the proper authorities to the ultimate placing of additional county help in the form of assistant agents, who would devote their time to the development of the 4-H club organization and program in cooperation with all other county extension programs and activities.

(Signed) W. J. Jernigan,
Chairman of Southern Group.

WJJ:IN

RECOMMENDATIONS OF WESTERN 4-H LEADERS
ON THE OLDER RURAL-YOUTH PROBLEM

The loss of 4-H club members after but a few years of active participation and the rather large number of those of a similar age who have never been club members, is the most challenging problem facing extension workers.

Western States have given considerable study to this problem, and in a few States a start has been made in solving it. However, lack of definite information as to the scope of the problem and the need for constructive and definite plan of action have thus far brought little in the way of measurable results.

We recommend that each Western State make a study of its situation to determine the need for organized work with older boys and girls as a basis for more definite plans, and suggest that a committee be appointed in the western area to make a coordinated study and to interpret the information which is finally secured.

In the light of present information, we do not favor a plan of work or administration of plan, that would separate, or tend to draw any line of demarcation between 4-H club work and extension work with older boys and girls.

We believe that extension work with older boys and girls should be a natural extension and outgrowth of 4-H clubs with, perhaps, enlarged projects for individuals or with such individual or community projects as the adult farm men and women must meet.

We believe that extension work with older boys and girls should grow slowly, and that the value of each step should be tested and proved, rather than rapidly forcing a program and perhaps finding that the boys and girls are not with us.

(Signed) F. P. Lane, Chairman

E. C. Hollinger, Secretary

CONFERENCE FINDINGS OF
THE 4-H LEADERS OF NORTHEAST SECTION
RE: OLDER YOUTH

The State club leaders of the Eastern States believe that to be of greatest usefulness, the program of the Extension Service should be so organized and directed as to permit and invite continuous and profitable participation on the part of rural people of all ages.

To this end we would suggest that studies and experimental projects be conducted by the States in cooperation with the Extension Service and the United States Department of Agriculture, looking toward the development of an extension program of a continuing and progressive nature designed to challenge the interest and activity of rural people from early youth through adolescence and throughout the productive age of the individual.

Until such a program shall have been devised and proved practical, we suggest:

1. That the maximum club age of 21 years be abolished.
2. That the State club offices, having already made some progress in serving the older age group of rural young people, be encouraged to continue their efforts along this line.
3. That no additional administrative machinery be created unless and until experience proves such machinery to be necessary.

We stand ready to cooperate with all branches of the Extension Service in working out plans, programs, and policies designed to make the service of greater usefulness to all rural youth.

(Signed) W. J. Wright,
Chairman, Eastern Group.

(Signed) Martin E. Leighton,
Secretary.

STATEMENT CONCERNING THE NEEDS OF RURAL YOUTH FROM THE VIEWPOINT
OF THE AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION SERVICE, AS SEEN BY THE EXTENSION
RURAL SOCIOLOGISTS

A well-organized rural community will contain in its various activities adequate provision for a sound agricultural development and a satisfactory life for the people of all ages within that community. Such a community development, which is based upon a careful self-analysis, may well constitute a major part of the agricultural extension program of the future. Within this community, there may be a number of groups each having a program of activities that comprises a necessary part of the whole picture, but the number and variety of these groups will differ considerably in various localities. Rural young men and women may require a separate organization in some communities, while in others the necessary activities may be provided for and by rural youth without setting up a new organization by the agricultural extension service prior to the initiation of specific activities in this field.

The following constitute some special considerations to be faced by the agricultural extension service in meeting the needs of rural youth:

1. At least a first step is to determine the existing situation and needs of rural youth in local areas where it is proposed to initiate a program.
2. A program of activities rather than a program of organization should in all cases be emphasized.
3. The activities program should be so definitely adapted to the needs of young men and women that the selection of participants is natural and voluntary.
4. The aim of the program for this group should be to develop the latent ability and resources of rural young men and women. This means that both leadership and fellowship training are vital to the ultimate success of bringing a more abundant life to rural communities.
5. Institutes, extension short courses, and leader training schools are commended as devices to get programs for rural youth under way. They should cover a time sufficient to initiate the program, taking into consideration the time limitation of rural youth, and should be repeated as needed to sustain interest in the program.

6. In many instances the local need is to supplement and coordinate existing opportunities and activities of rural young men and women.
7. All rural people need knowledge and skill concerning improved farm and home practices, but this particular age group (rural youth) have specific needs in regard to:
 - a. Occupational choice and preparation.
 - b. Preparation for establishing a home and maintaining satisfying family life.
 - c. Opportunity for personality development and self-expression.
 - d. Increasing participation in the life of the community, the State, and the Nation.

Respectfully submitted,

(Signed) B. L. Hummel,

President, National Association of
Rural Sociology Extension Workers.

STATE LEADERS' CONFERENCE - NATIONAL 4-H CLUB CAMP
Wednesday, June 20, 1934

Suggestions regarding further development of extension work with rural youth.

Remarks by Mr. W. A. Lloyd.

When we made our study of extension work as it relates to young men and women in 1931, we found an academic interest in this matter in almost every State. Only five States, however, were giving the matter any special extension attention, and in only two was there definite leadership devoting time to its project development - Kentucky and Hawaii. The various graphs accompanying this study showed conclusively that in our boys' and girls' 4-H club work the major enrollment was in the 10-15 year group and was very rapidly decreasing in enrollment of young people in 4-H club work beyond 16 years. However, the work with the upper-age group 16-20, represented about the total of our extension work in the field of young men and young women.

I have not had the opportunity to examine the results of Dr. Smith's recent questionnaire to the States asking for the present situation, but have been led to believe from the discussions here that both the interest and the amount of work accomplished in this field has been somewhat increased during the past three years. In my own group of Western States, I can speak from first-hand knowledge. Until three years ago Hawaii and Colorado had made the only conscious effort in this connection. Now, it is a matter of definite project activity in California, Colorado, Montana, Washington, Utah, Arizona, Hawaii, and Wyoming. The Territory of Hawaii is probably more advanced in this matter than any of the States. It recognized this problem as a separate one from either boys' and girls' club work or adult demonstration work from the very beginning of its extension work and has provided specific leadership for it. Hawaii divides its boys' and girls' club work into junior and senior 4-H clubs and its adult work into junior and senior farm and home demonstration clubs, respectively. The age limits are not arbitrary or fixed; that is, a young man or woman of about 16-20 has the option of joining either a senior 4-H club or a junior farm or home demonstration club and similarly those young men and women about 20 - and beyond - may unite with either a junior or senior farm or home demonstration club. This plan is flexible and adapts itself to the ability, maturity, and inclination of the young people involved. It is working satisfactorily.

I have listened with interest to the discussions of this group. It appears that certain factors will more or less automatically and by force of circumstances govern the development of work in this field during the next few years.

1. The campaigns of the Agricultural Adjustment Administration and the relief work of the Federal Emergency Relief Administration have brought new and heavy loads to the county extension agents, both men and women. These constitute the control factors in any increased attention to the group we are considering. The agents are already giving somewhat less attention to boys' and girls' club work than formerly. This decreased attention is already reaching a point of some concern. The loads of the county extension agents have about reached the limit. Perhaps in some instances have already passed beyond the limit of effective results. The development of work with young men and young women will require much detailed attention from county agents, if it is to succeed. Under the circumstances, therefore, barring increased workers in the county, very little can be accomplished for the time being.
2. If the county agents accept a responsibility in the field of young men and young women, it means necessarily less attention to some other project. This would most likely be boys' and girls' club work. I do not believe this is warranted.
3. Specialized leadership or county workers in this field is hardly in the picture in the immediate future for reasons which must be apparent to all.
4. There are possibilities of giving increased attention to special projects that will hold the interest of the upper-age group in boys' and girls' club work and in increasing duration of tenure in 4-H club membership. This is not an answer to the challenge, but it is a definite advance. It should be remembered, however, that boys' and girls' 4-H club work has won its spurs in relation to the 10-15 year group. It is an outstanding success there. Attention to this group should not be diminished. There should be no let-up in the field where our success is fully demonstrated.
5. The work done in Ontario, Canada, as presented here by Mr. Whitelock is the outstanding work in this connection on the American Continent. Whenever we get to it, we can well follow closely in the footsteps of our Canadian friends. The work there is a demonstrated success over nearly a quarter of a century. It is sound basically and from a standpoint of principles involved.
6. In the States we must as opportunity offers, continue to conduct laboratory experiments in this field. We should not be dogmatic or attempt to establish "project ownership" of the field. This is no time to put up "keep out" signs. It is quite immaterial who does the experimenting or even who finally may assume the leadership.

While the group we are considering, young men and young women, is more nearly an adult group than it is a boys' and girls' club group, I frankly expect that owing to the circumstances enumerated,

ated above, you in club work will do much of the experimenting in this field, through your senior club members. Fundamentally, it is not a boys' and girls' 4-H club problem at all. We shall do little more than experiment in this field until we recognize the age group 16, plus or minus, to 25 plus or minus, as a distinct problem for specialized leadership and specialized organization apart from either 4-H club work or adult demonstration work in agriculture or home economics.

